

Vision ~ Arbor Heights Elementary School is a community dedicated to fostering
The development of lifelong critical and creative thinkers

Arbor Heights' School Communicator

arborheights.wikispaces.com/Principals+Corner

May 3, 2012

Dear Arbor Heights Families:

Over the past few years we have seen many new programs introduced into our public schools. Many of these programs including "No Child Left Behind" required more accountability for student learning, however, they never defined what students were expected to learn. In some cases this led to weakened standards and huge differences in expectations among states and regions of the country.

Educational and business leaders across the country recognized the need for common standards among the states. Thus the "Common Core State Standards Initiative" came into being. New standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and business leaders to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce. Washington and 46 other states have adopted the new K-12 Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and English / Language Arts (ELA).

There has not been a more revolutionary school improvement program than that being undertaken with the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Implementation of these standards began in 2011 and will continue through 2014.

Transition to the new ELA Common Core should not be difficult because Washington's current curriculum has many similarities to the new CCSS. However, the new ELA Common Core requires more rigor, focuses on reading comprehension, and includes a heavier emphasis on writing, grammar, informational text, thinking skills, better instruction, and literacy across the curriculum.

Implementation of the new Common Core Standards for Mathematics will be much more difficult. It will pose a challenge for teachers, students and parents as we adjust to not only new standards but also a new way of teaching and learning mathematics. The new math curriculum does not isolate math skills into specific categories such as Algebra, Geometry, etc. Instead, math concepts are integrated with one another and taught based on a highly successful instructional model.

Teachers throughout Seattle Public Schools are learning more about Common Core State Standards and beginning the alignment process. Here at Arbor Heights our K-2 teachers began working with the English Language Arts (ELA) Common Core Standards in January and now meet every two weeks. K-2 teachers are working collaboratively to align ELA and will continue through the rest of the year and part of the summer. Next fall, math and writing will be included in their grade level and K-2 plans.

Grades K-5 learned more about Mathematics Common Core Standards during our March 16 early-release Professional Development day. We will begin alignment of K-5 standards in late August and throughout next year as Seattle Public Schools begins the roll-out for elementary teachers starting in the summer.

If you are interested in learning more, I have attached the Common Core State Standard Links below. I will keep you informed of future development of our school alignment, resource procurement and professional development plans as they develop.

Sincerely,

Christy

<http://www.corestandards.org/> <http://www.k12.wa.us/Corestandards/default.aspx>

MAY**May 7**

-Monday Morning Monthly

Meeting 9:30am

May 7-11

-Teacher Appreciation Week

May 8

-PTA Board Meeting 7:00pm

May 16

-Early Dismissal 1:00pm

May 17

-PTA General Meeting 6:30pm

May 24

Spring Concert

Day 2:00-3:00pm

Evening 7:00-8:00pm

May 28

-Memorial Day Holiday

May 29-Jun 1

-5th Grade Outdoor Education

JUNE**June 2**

-Carnival 3:00-6:00pm

June 5

-Volunteer Recognition

Luncheon 11:30-1:00pm

-PTA Board Meeting 7:00pm

June 7

-Field Day

June 15

-3rd & 4th Grade Pool party 12:00-3:00pm

June 20

-Kindergarten Graduation 10:45-11:45am

-5th Grade Graduation 1:30pm

June 22

-Awards Assembly 1:00pm

- Last Day of School, Early Dismissal 2:00pm

**~From the PTA~**

~ We welcome these returning and new **PTA Executive Board Members** that will serve for the **2012-2013 School Year**. They were voted in at the PTA General Meeting on April 26th.

- President: John Christensen
- Vice-President: Ken Coble
- Co-Secretary: Stacie Hart & Ann Bury
- Co-Treasurer: Fran Annis & Shellie Jacobsma

~**Teacher Appreciation Week** is May 7th-May 11th. We would like to encouraging everyone to take time to thank their kid's teachers and all staff. The PTA will be providing "special treats" for the staff throughout the week!

~**Edible Plant Sale** order forms need to be turned in by Monday, May 7th. The plants are being grown for each order. Plant delivery will be June 3rd at the Carnival. More forms available in the office or at arborheights.wikispaces.com/AHPTA+Edible+Plant+Sale

~**5th Grade Family Graduation Party** is being organized for Friday, June 22nd at Lincoln Park from 3pm to 8pm. 7 picnic tables by the beach have been reserved for a BBQ and party. All 5th Grade families are welcome and anyone else who would like to join! Contact: Dana Varon—dana.varon@comcast.net

~Calling all **Carnival Volunteers!** Lots of volunteers are needed to make the Carnival a successful and fun event for our kids and families. We need volunteers for set up (Friday 6/1 pm or Saturday 6/3 12-3), clean up (Saturday 6-8pm) and the following in shifts of 3:00-4:30pm or 4:30-6pm: concessions, ticket sales, BBQers, dunk tankes, games, rides (indoor and outdoor), cotton candy, popcorn, tattoos, face paints, art. We also need a BBQ or two, coolers and awnings if anyone can loan them for that day. For more information on how you can help or to see the line-up for this year's Carnival, please check out arborheights.wikispaces.com/AHPTA+Spring+Carnival

~We need your help to make these Spring activities a success: Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week, Field Day and Spring Carnival as well as ongoing activities such as Communications Committee, Grant Writing Committee, Playground Help and Office Help. Please fill out the **Spring Volunteer Flyer** that came home with your child or view it here arborheights.wikispaces.com/AHPTA+Volunteering

A BIG Thank You all the Spring Clean-up Volunteers for coming out on Saturday, April 28th to spiff-up and brighten the school grounds. We'd like to recognize the following:

- Maya, Meri & Bob Patton
- Brenda & Chester Haugaard
- Laurel, Jamie, Rob & Gail Glatzmayer
- Paul, Rosslyn, Robin & Loren Shea
- Amy, Owen & Ella Christensen
- Susan, Jon & Solveig DeFant
- Debbie & Lola Taylor
- David Wilkie
- Sue Holms
- Steve & Quinn Dumout
- Karen, Maia, Ford & Ty Rains
- Cindy Van Gaver

We appreciate all that you do for our school and community!

Ms. Wilson Earns \$100 Classroom Award

Davis Law Group, P.S., a Seattle-based law firm, in partnership with OfficeMax, is pleased to announce that Sue Wilson is this week's recipient of the **Davis Law Group School Supplies Gift Program**. Ms. Wilson is a first grade teacher at Arbor Heights Elementary School.

In her first year at Arbor Heights Elementary, Ms. Wilson has spent a lot of her time meeting with parents and coming up with ways to better serve her students. She is known for encouraging the kids to grow and learn in all aspects of life.

Ms. Wilson was nominated for this award by the parent of one of her students, who describes her as very welcoming and always willing to go out of her way to meet with parents.

"Sue really encourages the kids to grow and learn in all areas," she said. "Not just academically but as individuals."

Ms. Wilson will use the gift card to purchase basic school supplies for her classroom, as well as coat hooks and other miscellaneous materials – things that she usually spends hundreds of dollars of her own on throughout the school year.

Attorney Chris Davis and his wife started a program to help public school teachers get extra classroom supplies without having to spend their own money. The **Davis Law Group School Supplies Gift Program** gives a \$100 OfficeMax gift card each week to a deserving Washington State Public school teacher and his/her class. Anyone can nominate a teacher for this program, including teachers, students, parents and administrators.



Family Symposium

The Office of School & Family Partnerships at Seattle Public Schools would like to invite families to attend the **Building Bridges for Summer Learning Family Symposium** on **Saturday, May 12** from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at **Chief Sealth International High School**, 2600 S.W. Thistle St., Seattle, WA 98126.

The goal of our Family Symposium is to support our families as critical partners with us in their student's academic success. At this symposium, we will offer workshops for our families, staff, and community partners on research-based best practices and practical strategies to help them support student academic achievement at home, at school, and in the community.

Arts activities for children, ages 4 and up will be available. Interpretation services in our top eight languages and light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

For more information, please visit the symposiums web page at: <http://bit.ly/FamilySymposium2012> or contact Bernardo Ruiz at (206)252-0693 or email at bjruiz@seattleschools.org.

We hope to see you there!